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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 8 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Manongi ..... (United Republic of Tanzania)
later: Mr. Gharibi (Vice-Chair) ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 107: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/69/209)

1. **Mr. Zewdu** (Ethiopia) said that there was an urgent need to intensify efforts to combat terrorism, which was a complex and constantly evolving phenomenon. The international community's response to the increasing use by terrorists of new technologies and the Internet for fundraising, recruitment, communication and propaganda purposes had thus far been inadequate. Ethiopia, along with other countries of the subregion, had been dealing with the problem of terrorism since the early 1990s. However, since then the threat had grown significantly, as demonstrated by the terrorist acts perpetrated by Al-Shabaab and other groups affiliated with Al-Qaida.

2. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should serve as a basis for enhancing efforts to combat terrorism. While the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rested with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations should continue to play a key role. The international community's joint response should be long-term and multi-pronged in nature and should address the factors conducive to the spread of terrorism and counter its appeal through the use of dialogue.

3. His Government had taken a number of measures under the Global Strategy, including legislative measures on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and the enactment of a counter-terrorism proclamation establishing severe penalties for convicted terrorists. It had also established a financial intelligence centre to coordinate the various institutions involved in the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and had put in place a legal framework for joint investigations at the inter-agency and international levels, including with neighbouring countries and INTERPOL.

4. Ethiopia was a party to many regional and international instruments on combating terrorism and had taken a number of legal and administrative measures to implement both those instruments and the counter-terrorism resolutions adopted by the Security Council. It had been cooperating with United Nations organs to follow up on the list of individuals and organs subject to Security Council sanctions. He reiterated his Government's commitment to cooperating with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and regional bodies such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, of which Ethiopia was a member.

5. Double standards still prevailed in the fight against terrorism. Those who supported terrorist groups, even indirectly, must be held accountable. Only collective efforts would be effective.

6. **Mr. Pham** Quang Hieu (Viet Nam) said that his Government shared the international community's grave concern at the rise of terrorism and the increasingly sophisticated methods it employed. Terrorist acts were unjustifiable, irrespective of its form and motivation, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice. A cohesive approach was needed in order to combat terrorism effectively at both the regional and international levels. Significant progress had been made in promoting cooperation in that regard in recent years, with the United Nations playing the leading role. However, counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the rule of law. At the same time, the root causes of terrorism, including political, economic and social inequality and injustice all over the world, should be addressed.

7. Viet Nam's law on counter-terrorism, adopted in 2013, set out a legal framework for improved efforts to combat terrorism and fostered Viet Nam's international cooperation in that regard. At the regional level, Viet Nam and other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had continued to pursue collective efforts to combat terrorism in line with the Global Strategy and all the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. Viet Nam had also participated in counter-terrorism cooperation projects and workshops in the context of ASEAN, including the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism and ASEAN cooperation with the Russian Federation and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia-Europe Meeting. In July 2014, as part of the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue, Viet Nam had hosted a regional seminar on building the capacity of civil security employees and self-employed guards to prevent and respond to terrorism.

8. Viet Nam was an active participant in United Nations-led efforts to promote counter-terrorism cooperation. In January 2014 it had ratified the

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, and was thus now a party to 12 international counter-terrorism instruments. His delegation supported the leading role of the United Nations in combating terrorism, called for the continuing full implementation of the Global Strategy and encouraged Member States to finalize and adopt the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It looked forward to working closely with the relevant agencies of the United Nations in implementing technical assistance and capacity-building projects and strengthening the national legal framework for counter-terrorism.

9. **Ms. Natividad** (Philippines) reiterated in the strongest terms her Government's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Continued efforts must be made to enhance cooperation on combating terrorism at all levels, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to which her Government had renewed its commitment during the fourth biennial review in June 2014. Intergovernmental and regional organizations such as the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and ASEAN were also instrumental in promoting such cooperation; for example, the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism fostered more effective criminal justice systems throughout the region while upholding the rule of law, civil liberties and human rights. Of particular importance was the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in capacity-building and the exchange of information and best practices, especially among security and law enforcement agencies. Interfaith and intercultural dialogue, based on respect for human dignity, understanding and tolerance among peoples and rejection of extremism, was one of the primary ways to combat terrorism; it required the engagement of all stakeholders.

10. Her delegation had been one of the sponsors of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters because it believed that resolute action was necessary in order to suppress the group known as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and its false ideologies. National legislation against money-laundering and terrorist financing had also been adopted recently in order to strengthen the country's landmark law on terrorism, the Human Security Act. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had taken note of the work of the country's Anti-Money Laundering Council, which was consistent with accepted global standards. There were also three pieces of draft legislation before the Philippine Congress on strategic trade management involving dual-use goods, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

11. The Philippines was continuing its grass-roots efforts to help communities protect themselves against extremist and terrorist propaganda, raise their security awareness and train them to prevent terrorist attacks. The Football for Peace programme brought together children from conflict areas with a view to transforming a culture of violence into a culture of peace. In March 2014, the European Union and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute had established, in Manila, the South East Asia Regional Secretariat of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence, which had begun work with her Government on a CBRN national action plan. The Philippines had also signed a memorandum of understanding with Indonesia in May 2014 on combating international terrorism.

12. Despite 17 years of negotiations, the international community was still debating the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Political resolve was needed in order to conclude the negotiations. She reiterated her delegation's support for the efforts of the working group to finalize the process on the draft comprehensive convention.

13. **Mr. Çevik** (Turkey) said that the global terrorist threat was constantly evolving and was not diminishing but intensifying. The recent attacks by ISIL, which had security implications not only for the region but also for the entire international community, had demonstrated once again that the threat was transboundary in nature and required a global response. Owing to its painful experience of terrorism, Turkey had consistently advocated international cooperation to combat the threat, including through capacity-building efforts where necessary. In that regard, it had concluded bilateral agreements with 70 countries in the fields of security cooperation, counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime.

14. Turkey actively contributed to the work of United Nations agencies and regional organizations in promoting a concerted approach to combating terrorism and was a party to most of the international counter-terrorism instruments. The Committee's work was particularly valuable in that regard. Turkey also supported the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and was pleased to have facilitated the resolution on the outcome of the fourth biennial review in June 2014. It looked forward to continued cooperation with all partners in the run-up to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Strategy.

15. The Global Counterterrorism Forum, which Turkey co-chaired, was addressing three issues of increasing concern: the growing phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, the increasing use of kidnapping for ransom by terrorist groups and the growth of violent extremism. The advance of radical groups in the region, fuelled by an unprecedented influx of foreign terrorist fighters, necessitated a comprehensive approach, including efforts to address the root causes that led young people to embrace violent extremism. De-legitimizing the terrorist ideology and narrative was vital. In that regard, his Government welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). At the same time, because sustained conflicts provided terrorist groups with safe havens and opportunities for recruitment, efforts to resolve such conflicts should be enhanced.

16. Since organized crime was a primary source of terrorist financing, sustained efforts should be made to prevent drug trafficking, money-laundering and arms smuggling. Terrorists should also be given a clear message that there was no safe haven or immunity from justice. The principle of extradite or prosecute must be implemented to that end.

17. It would be a mistake to associate any religion, in particular Islam, a religion of peace and tolerance, with terrorism. His delegation condemned any kind of incitement to hatred or religious discrimination against Muslims or people of other faiths. Lastly, all counter-terrorism efforts must be firmly grounded in democratic principles and the rule of law.

18. **Mr. Šćepanović** (Montenegro) said that terrorism was a global challenge that required an integrated global response. Each State had an obligation to monitor potential terrorist threats and act appropriately to prevent them, but such national efforts must be supported by strengthened cooperation at the regional and international levels. Montenegro actively participated in multilateral and bilateral efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism and supported the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It also recognized the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

19. Foreign fighters posed a greater threat to security than ever before, but there was no military solution to the problem. The recently adopted Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), on the other hand, would serve as a valuable tool in that regard. Montenegro had been among the first sponsors of the resolution and was committed to implementing it by amending its Criminal Code in order to prescribe penalties for mercenaries who fought in third countries. At the same time, fundamental freedoms, human rights and the rule of law were paramount, and efforts to combat terrorism must therefore be conducted in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian and refugee law.

20. Although Montenegro had never experienced a terrorist attack, the Government recognized that terrorism and organized crime posed a serious threat to international peace and security and was therefore continuously improving its system for the prevention of terrorist activities. Montenegro was a party to the major international counter-terrorism instruments and was implementing a national strategy for the prevention and suppression of terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. It attached great importance to international cooperation in the implementation of international legal instruments, the exchange of information, experience and good practice relating to counter-terrorism and the provision of international legal assistance. It would continue to develop technical, scientific and educational measures to combat terrorism and take steps to ensure the security, well-being and prosperity of its citizens as a bulwark against terrorism.

21. **Mr. Atlassi** (Morocco), reiterating his Government's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, said that it should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. The world was currently witnessing an unprecedented escalation of violent extremism and

radicalism, the most prominent example of which was the control exerted over a large part of Iraqi and Syrian territory by the terrorist group ISIL.

22. Terrorist groups used all available means, including new technology, the Internet and social networks, to maximize recruitment and incite to terrorist acts. The international community must come together in order to de-legitimize their destructive ideology. Such efforts should not be restricted to security-related measures. Morocco, which had experienced terrorist attacks in Casablanca in 2003 and Marrakech in 2011, had developed a comprehensive approach in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that focused on optimizing security governance and upgrading the legal framework for combating terrorism — for example, a law had recently been adopted to discourage young people from travelling to areas of tension — but that also included efforts to counter social exclusion, promote sustainable human development and restructure national religious life. Morocco was also providing young imams, including some from a number of other African and Arab countries such as Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, with training in moderate Islam so that they could pass on the training to others in their own countries. That cooperation had been recognized as a good practice by CTED. His delegation and those of the aforementioned partner countries had shared their experiences in that regard — an example of South-South cooperation in the Sahel-Maghreb region — at a high-level briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in September 2014 on countering incitement to commit terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance.

23. It was a matter of concern to his country and the whole region that factions of Al-Qaida were aspiring to form a State stretching from the Atlantic to the Nile, while other factions in West Africa involved in the destabilization of Mali had joined Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. Some factions had stated their allegiance to ISIL and had acquired sufficient financial and technological resources to enable them to threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States in the region. Those States must redouble their efforts to coordinate and exchange information in order to combat the threat effectively. To that end, Morocco had hosted a workshop on transnational security challenges in the South Atlantic in Rabat in October 2012 under the auspices of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the second Regional Ministerial Conference on Border Security involving the countries of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb, which had led to the adoption of the Rabat Declaration. It had also hosted a number of other meetings, including the second meeting of the Forum's Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law Working Group in Rabat in February 2012, at which the Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector had been adopted.

24. The recent influx of some 15,000 foreign terrorist fighters from more than 80 countries to Iraq and Syria now constituted a major threat to the fighters' countries of origin, transit and residence. The first expert meeting under the Forum's "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" Initiative, jointly organized by Morocco and the Netherlands, had been held in Marrakech in May 2014 in order to discuss issues relating to the police, border control, the judiciary and information-sharing. At the most recent ministerial meeting of the Forum, in September 2014, participants had adopted the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" Phenomenon and had endorsed the establishment of a working group on foreign terrorist fighters, to be co-chaired by Morocco and the Netherlands. Morocco had also associated itself with the Brussels action plan to prevent such fighters from travelling to Syria and welcomed the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), of which it had been one of the sponsors.

25. His delegation welcomed the conclusions of the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy held in June 2014 and commended the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to provide assistance and training to Member States, which should be backed by sufficient and predictable financial resources. It also welcomed the fruitful cooperation between CTED and the Task Force. His Government remained committed to counter-terrorism efforts within the United Nations and at the regional and subregional levels.

26. **Mr. Heumann** (Israel) said that his country faced a widespread and persistent terrorist threat. In summer 2014, Israel had once again been compelled to take action in Gaza in order to protect its citizens against Hamas rocket attacks and "terror tunnels".

27. The international community had realized the need for a robust strategy in order to contain the threat posed by radical terrorist groups such as ISIL. The same approach was needed with regard to State sponsors of terrorism such as Iran, whose fingerprints could be found on hundreds of terrorist campaigns that had claimed thousands of innocent lives around the world. In Syria, Iran had sent its Revolutionary Guard forces to fight alongside President Assad's forces and had spent billions sustaining the bloody civil war that had taken almost 200,000 lives. In Lebanon, the Iranian-backed Hizbullah terrorist group had built military capabilities considerably stronger than those of the Lebanese army. In Gaza, Tehran had helped Hamas acquire thousands of rockets that were deliberately and systematically fired at the Israeli population.

28. Hamas clearly stated in its Charter that its primary objective was to wipe Israel off the map. It also shared the global ambition and fanatical ideology of the most radical terrorist organizations such as ISIL in Iraq and Syria, Boko Haram in Nigeria, Al-Shabaab in Somalia, Hizbullah in Lebanon and Al-Qaida.

29. Terrorism knew no borders and its victims came from all religions, cultures and countries. Israel condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, and was committed to countering it. Israel recognized the central role of the United Nations in such efforts and welcomed the outcome of the 2014 review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was vital to keep the Strategy up-to-date, and his delegation welcomed the call for renewed efforts to implement all four of its pillars in an integrated and balanced manner.

30. His delegation also welcomed the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters and had been proud to be among the sponsors. The resolution was a significant first step, but much more must be done to confront the growing numbers of foreign terrorist fighters. Israel would be hosting an international conference on the issue in November 2014, organized in conjunction with CTED, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

31. His Government did its utmost to ensure that all counter-terrorism measures complied with Israel's obligations under international law. At the national level, it was committed to respecting the rule of law and democracy in its efforts to combat terrorism. At the international level, Israel was a party to the core international counter-terrorism instruments and fully implemented Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). It had also adapted its legislation to ensure compliance with Security Council resolution 1267 (1999).

32. His delegation supported the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that included a clear definition of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Failure to adopt such a convention would compromise counter-terrorism efforts and might be perceived as a de facto victory by terrorist organizations throughout the world. The Committee must send a clear message that no cause or grievance justified terrorism.

33. **Mr. Mamabolo** (South Africa) said that his Government abhorred all acts of terrorism as fundamental violations of international law and human rights. The historic Security Council summit held on 24 September 2014 on the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters had been timely; in the resolution adopted, the Council had emphasized for the first time ever that countering violent extremism was an essential element of an effective response. While most speakers had acknowledged that military and security measures were necessary in the short term, they had stressed the need for a comprehensive approach that addressed marginalization, long-standing conflicts and other factors that attracted individuals to extremism.

34. Since 2000 the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism had been stalled, in particular, on the question of which acts were to be included in a definition of terrorism. During the April 2013 session of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, his delegation had expressed concern at the seeming inability to make progress and had suggested that, after 14 years, the time had come to decide among three possible options: the first, and preferable, option was to adopt the draft convention on the basis of the 2007 text; the second option was to package a consolidated text, including all proposals, and recommend a pause in the process to the General Assembly; and the third was to concede that there was no consensus and abandon efforts to elaborate a convention. The Ad Hoc Committee had chosen the second option. His delegation hoped that Member States had used the aforementioned pause to

reflect on negotiations with a view to reaching consensus.

35. Continuous annual meetings without any substantive discussion or movement could no longer be justified. There was no point in continuing to meet in various forums, at great expense, if there was no political will to adopt the draft convention. If delegations were not able to reach consensus despite current events, difficult choices would have to be made.

36. **Mr. Percaya** (Indonesia) said that the emergence of groups such as ISIL and Boko Haram demonstrated that terrorists had become more ingenious in the way they conducted their operations, recruitment and fundraising. Indonesia had suffered terrorist attacks in the past, and indeed no country was immune from terrorism. Because integrated approaches were required in order to defeat the threat, the United Nations must retain its core role in the global partnership to prevent and combat terrorism.

37. In order to prevent the spread of terrorist ideas, the value of peace and tolerance must be promoted. As a multicultural country, Indonesia could attest to the effectiveness of interfaith dialogue in promoting harmony and countering extreme views. Indonesia had also incorporated dialogue between convicted terrorists and moderate clerics into its deradicalization programme in order to counter the appeal of terrorism and prevent the manipulation of religion for terrorist purposes. Indonesia was co-chairing, with Australia, the newly established Detention and Reintegration Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which was responsible for exploring best practices relating to the management of prisons and the reintegration of violent extremist offenders, including terrorists. It had also hosted the sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in August 2014, which had served as a reminder of the importance of tolerance and respect and the need to turn dialogue into effective action.

38. International cooperation was key in combating terrorism, and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remained the universally accepted framework for such cooperation. In order to achieve the full implementation of the Strategy, Indonesia would continue to play an active role in counter-terrorism capacity-building in other States, including through the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, which had trained more than 15,000 officers from more than 70 countries since it had opened in 2004.

39. Compliance with an accepted international legal framework was crucial to fostering cooperation between States. Indonesia had been one of the sponsors of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and was also a party to a number of counter-terrorism instruments, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, to which it had acceded in March 2014.

40. Despite the rise of the terrorist group calling itself the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, terrorism could not and should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. ISIL had nothing to do with Islam and its actions were in extreme contravention of the teachings of that religion. His Government had banned ISIL as an organization in Indonesia and had taken steps to discourage people from joining it and to encourage moderates to denounce its ideology.

41. Terrorists continued to take advantage of situations of instability, political turmoil or absence of the rule of law. It was therefore urgent for the United Nations to resolve conflicts throughout the world and to help bring peace and prosperity. Terrorism could not be defeated by military power alone; it must also be addressed through development, education and economic and social inclusion, in other words, through good governance.

42. **Ms. Kasese-Bota** (Zambia) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; all acts of terrorism were criminal and inhumane and a violation of international human rights and humanitarian law. Since a united effort by the international community was required, her delegation recognized the central role of the United Nations in coordinating the efforts of Member States and strengthening their capacity to prevent terrorist acts, and it supported the work of the United Nations and other multilateral bodies in developing practical tools to combat terrorism.

43. Zambia had enacted a number of laws to complement its Anti-Terrorism Act, including the Financial Intelligence Centre Act and laws on the prevention of money-laundering and corruption; on plea negotiations and agreements; on the protection of whistle-blowers; and on the forfeiture of the proceeds

of crime. The Government was also working to establish a national counter-terrorism centre to provide a framework for the implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Act, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001).

44. Her delegation welcomed the Organization's efforts to ensure the protection of human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism and commended its measures to target terrorist financing. It recognized the success of the United Nations, through the work of the Sixth Committee, in developing 18 universal instruments establishing a legal framework for combating terrorism. However, much remained to be done in order to ensure that those instruments were widely ratified and implemented, in particular the six most recent instruments covering nuclear terrorism and new and emerging threats to civil aviation, maritime navigation and the protection of nuclear material.

45. Despite the Ad Hoc Committee's best efforts, negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism remained at an impasse. Her delegation encouraged all Member States to cooperate and show flexibility in order to reach a conclusion and also called on them to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism in accordance with international law.

46. **Mr. Aldahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of the motives behind it and the identity of the perpetrators. Terrorist acts could not be justified under any circumstances. The United Nations was the principal forum for the coordination of international efforts to eliminate terrorism. His delegation welcomed the resolution adopted by consensus at the end of the fourth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which referred for the first time to the importance of confronting the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, and also welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). The success of efforts to combat terrorism required the full implementation of those resolutions and other international counter-terrorism instruments and the avoidance of politicization, selectivity and double standards. In addition, all attempts to establish a distinction between "good" and "bad" terrorism or between moderate and extremist terrorism, or to link terrorism to the struggle of peoples under foreign occupation to exercise their right of self-determination, must be avoided.

47. Over the past three years, his delegation had persistently informed the international community of the brutal terrorist attacks committed by transnational terrorists and foreign mercenaries who were conducting a proxy war on Syrian territory and had repeatedly warned of the possibility of such attacks spreading to other States in the region and the rest of the world. It had also drawn attention to the activities of certain Governments that were known to use terrorism as a foreign policy tool by financing, training and arming extremist *takfirist* foreign fighters and sending them to Syria. The international community had remained silent until the threat had escalated to such an extent that it could not be ignored. The Syrian Government, which had been fighting and continued to fight ISIL, Al-Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida, had previously expressed its willingness to participate in an international or regional coalition that enjoyed international legitimacy or to engage in bilateral cooperation to combat the threat. However, the international coalition that had now taken shape against ISIL had been formed outside the framework of the United Nations. Moreover, the prominent position in it of States that supported terrorism raised doubts about its credibility, motives and objectives, and begged the question of whether the United States and its allies would oblige the States concerned to end their support for terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters. His Government supported all international counter-terrorism efforts that ensured the protection of the lives of innocent civilians and that were conducted with respect for national sovereignty and in compliance with international law. Military attacks against terrorist organizations would not achieve their objectives if they violated international standards and if they were launched without coordination with the relevant States.

48. His country was a party to 10 international agreements and a number of bilateral agreements on countering terrorism. It continued to fulfil its obligations in that regard, despite the fact that certain Arab and regional actors failed to do so. It was making firm efforts to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and had adopted a number of counter-terrorism laws.

49. Joint international efforts to counter terrorism would remain ineffectual so long as double standards

were applied and a blind eye was turned to the State terrorism practised by Israel in the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied Arab territories, and so long as Israel was allowed to maintain its support for Al-Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations that had repeatedly abducted and detained members of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), as documented in the Secretariat's reports on UNDOF.

50. His delegation hoped that negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism — which, despite the flexibility evinced by some delegations, had still not been adopted — would be completed and expressed its appreciation for the Ad Hoc Committee's efforts in that regard.

51. His delegation reiterated its call for joint efforts to prevent the use of communication technologies, the Internet, social media networks and the broadcast media for the purposes of terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment. Efforts should also be made to cut off the supply of funds to terrorist groups, particularly by controlling the activities of so-called charitable organizations, and to deny such groups weapons and safe haven through border control and information exchange. Action should be taken to prevent the spread of extremist fatwas that aimed at damaging the reputation of other Arabs and Muslims and spread hatred among religions, civilizations and cultures. All States, entities and individuals involved in business and financial dealings with terrorist organizations, particularly in the oil sector, must be held accountable. Lastly, all conflicts should be resolved through peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

52. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that terrorism had taken on new dimensions, with terrorists training in foreign countries and using social media for propaganda and planning purposes. His Government had always opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supported international efforts to eliminate it. Those efforts should be stepped up in the light of current developments. A zero-tolerance approach should be taken, since terrorism violated fundamental human rights. Terrorist acts were criminal acts for which there could be no excuse, irrespective of when, where or by whom they were committed. Double standards and selectivity should be avoided. Moreover, terrorism should not be linked with any particular ethnicity or religion.

53. Counter-terrorism efforts should be conducted in strict observance of international law, including the purposes and principles of the Charter and provisions on the use of force, and with full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries concerned. His delegation called upon more countries to accede to the international counter-terrorism instruments and supported the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism in order to enhance the international legal framework.

54. International counter-terrorism cooperation should be led by the United Nations and the Security Council. That was the only way to maintain solidarity and coordinate efforts effectively. His Government supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as the basis for such cooperation and called for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and greater coordination among the Organization's counter-terrorism entities.

55. All countries should intensify their efforts to stop terrorist organizations from using the Internet to publicize terror and violence, spread extremist ideas, instigate and plot terrorist acts, recruit personnel and transfer funds. They should also improve the gathering and sharing of information, step up the fight against cyberterrorism and cooperate to cut off terrorists' corridors of movement and sources of funding. At the same time, both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism should be addressed through political, security, economic, financial and information-related measures. In particular, steps should be taken to eradicate poverty and promote human development.

56. The Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) constituted a direct and real terrorist threat to China. Over the past year, it had carried out several violent terrorist attacks in China that had resulted in heavy casualties. The Government had increased its efforts to combat ETIM and other "East Turkestan" terrorist forces through improved information-gathering and was in the process of drafting a counter-terrorism law aimed at punishing crimes of violence and terrorism, safeguarding stability and collaborating effectively with the international community.

57. His Government attached great importance to international counter-terrorism cooperation. It engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation and had

established bilateral consultation mechanisms with a dozen countries. It also participated in forums such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN Regional Forum and in activities in the context of the BRICS group (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa). It supported other countries in the region in their counter-terrorism efforts and also provided developing countries with assistance.

58. **Ms. Dieguez La O** (Cuba) said that her Government condemned all terrorist acts, whatever their motivation, including those in which States were implicated directly or indirectly. Efforts to combat terrorism should be holistic and should encompass direct engagement, prevention and measures to address its root causes.

59. The recent review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had led to the adoption of a resolution that recognized the counter-terrorism efforts of States and international organizations, bearing in mind national and regional differences. However, it lacked a clear condemnation of the unilateral acts of certain States that took it upon themselves to judge others' behaviour and to draw up politically motivated lists in contravention of international law. Such acts undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in the fight against terrorism. The use of modern information and communications technology to promote or carry out subversive acts of regime change was unacceptable and should be rejected by the international community, in accordance with international law. Moreover, the practice of certain States in financing, supporting or promoting use of the Internet, radio and television to disseminate messages of intolerance and hatred against other peoples, cultures or political systems violated the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and should be addressed as part of counter-terrorism efforts.

60. Violations of the Charter, the existence of poverty and the promotion of xenophobia fed extremist ideologies. It was unacceptable that, under the pretext of counter-terrorism, some States committed acts of aggression, interfered in the internal affairs of other States, including through support for regime change, and committed flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, such as torture, abduction, unlawful detention, forced disappearance and extrajudicial execution. Cuba, as a party to all the international counter-terrorism instruments, reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the central function of the United Nations in adopting measures and developing a legal framework to combat international terrorism. Her delegation reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention to address existing legislative gaps and was in favour of holding an international conference under United Nations auspices to prepare an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Both of those objectives had been obstructed by a small group of States whose actions suggested that they preferred to wage war against terrorism outside the framework of the Charter and international law.

61. The Country Reports on Terrorism 2013 published by the United States Department of State repeated once again the absurd allegation that Cuba was a State sponsor of terrorism, yet recognized that the Government of Cuba had supported and hosted negotiations between the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) and the Government of Colombia aimed at brokering a peace agreement between the two; that there was no indication that the Cuban Government had provided weapons or paramilitary training to terrorist groups; and that members of Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) in Cuba had been relocated with the cooperation of the Spanish Government. However, political considerations and the need to justify at any cost the failed embargo unanimously rejected by the international community had once again triumphed over rationality. The sole pretext for the allegation against Cuba was the presence in the country of "fugitives" from United States justice, none of whom had been accused of terrorism: some of them had been granted asylum legitimately, while others who had committed crimes in the United States had been duly tried and convicted and had decided to reside in Cuba after they had finished serving their sentences.

62. Cuban territory had never been used and would never be used to harbour terrorists of any origin or to organize, finance or perpetrate terrorist acts against any country, including the United States of America. The Government unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism, wherever committed and whatever the circumstances or motivations. It was the Government of the United States that employed State terrorism as a weapon against countries that opposed its domination; used reprehensible methods such as torture; employed

advanced military technology, including drones, to carry out extrajudicial executions of suspected terrorists, including its own citizens; and had caused the deaths of numerous innocent civilians. Cuba was one of the countries that for decades had suffered terrorist acts organized and funded from United States territory that had caused 3,478 deaths and left 2,099 people disabled. Meanwhile, the United States Government continued to give refuge to Cuban terrorists such as Luis Posada Carriles, who had been involved in the blowing-up of a Cubana de Aviación flight in 1976 in which 73 people had perished, yet kept in prison the anti-terrorism fighters Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and Antonio Guerrero for crimes they had not committed.

63. Her delegation firmly rejected the manipulation of such a sensitive subject as international terrorism in order to use it as a policy tool against her country and demanded that Cuba should be permanently removed from the arbitrary unilateral list, which was an affront to the Cuban people and a discredit to the United States Government. Cuba, a victim of terrorism and a poor country under an embargo, remained willing to participate in efforts to combat international terrorism.

64. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand) said that his Government unequivocally condemned all terrorist acts, which were criminal and totally unjustifiable, and offered its condolences to the victims of such heinous acts around the world, particularly those being perpetrated by Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria. It was committed to engaging actively in efforts to combat terrorism at the domestic, regional and international levels and to bringing to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, all perpetrators of terrorist acts. His delegation therefore welcomed the recent unanimous adoption of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), which demonstrated the Council's determination to fulfil its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. As a responsible Member of the United Nations, Thailand reaffirmed its readiness to implement those and other relevant resolutions.

65. His Government supported the work of CTED and other bodies in capacity-building and international coordination and also supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which engaged not only Member States but also other actors, including non-governmental organizations and civil society. The fourth biennial review of the Strategy in June 2014 had provided an opportunity to share information and discuss implementation efforts.

66. Thailand had ratified nine of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was taking all the necessary steps to become a party to the remaining ones. It had been active in interdicting and preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through its participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative since November 2012. As a party to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, Thailand worked closely with fellow ASEAN member States to ensure the effective implementation of regional counter-terrorism measures and other international obligations.

67. An effective way to combat terrorism was to stem the flow of terrorist financing by establishing comprehensive anti-money-laundering laws. His Government had systematically strengthened its anti-money-laundering controls and legislation and, in recognition of its success, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had announced at its plenary meeting in June 2013 that Thailand would no longer be subject to monitoring under the FATF global anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorist financing compliance process.

68. The international community must maintain its efforts to combat terrorism, particularly through the implementation of international legal instruments and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. With the development of new threats, such as the possible use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists, the continuing emergence of home-grown terrorism and self-radicalization, the spread of violent extremist beliefs among young people and the growing threat of cyberterrorism, the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism was more pressing than ever. His delegation therefore commended the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and welcomed the progress being made towards finalizing the draft convention, which should contain a sufficiently clear and precise definition of terrorism, without any reference to "State terrorism". A finalized draft of the convention was a prerequisite for the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices.

69. The root causes of terrorism must be addressed in parallel with efforts to enhance the international legal

regime and law enforcement. Non-State actors must also be engaged. Dialogue among civilizations should be promoted in order to enhance interfaith and intercultural understanding, and all responses to terrorism must comply with international law, especially international human rights and humanitarian law.

70. **Mr. Thornberry** (Peru) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and was committed to fighting it through multilateral initiatives in a comprehensive and balanced manner and in strict observance of the Charter and of international law, in particular international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. His Government supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the biennial review conducted in June 2014. The next biennial review, which would mark 10 years since the adoption of the Strategy, should result in a more comprehensive evaluation. His delegation also attached importance to the swift adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would provide a legal definition of terrorism and stood ready to contribute to the efforts of the working group established with a view to finalizing the process on the draft convention.

71. After suffering more than two decades of violence at the hands of terrorist groups, which had caused great human suffering and material loss, Peru was determined to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and also to tackle the problem of groups associated with terrorism, including front organizations. The Government was therefore pleased to note that General Assembly resolution 68/276 on the Global Strategy review had recognized the need for Member States to prevent the abuse of non-governmental, non-profit and charitable organizations by and for terrorists and had called upon such organizations to prevent and oppose, as appropriate, attempts by terrorists to abuse the status of those organizations.

72. As a sign of its commitment to the fight against terrorism, Peru was a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, among others. His Government also attached great importance to tackling the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. Such fighters could increase the intensity and duration of conflicts and make them more difficult to resolve, and could also pose a serious threat to their States of origin, transit and destination. In that context, his delegation took note of the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).

73. All necessary measures must be taken at the national and international levels, in compliance with the four pillars of the Global Strategy, to deal with the threat of terrorism for the sake of all countries and of international peace.

74. *Mr. Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

75. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whether it occurred in the Middle East, Asia, Africa or elsewhere in the world. It constituted a threat to the entire international community and therefore demanded a concerted response. Terrorists had developed sophisticated skills and strategies in order to coordinate and fund their activities and were exerting an alarming influence on fragile States. There could be no justification for the wanton destruction of infrastructure, the brutal killing, including beheading, of innocent people and the rape of women and young girls. His Government condemned attempts to justify such acts in the name of Islam. Those who practised true Islam were peace-loving people who sought the development and progress of the human race. It was not acceptable for a small group of people to attempt to impose their will and misguided ideology on others through the use of force and terror tactics; people should be free to choose the type of government under which they wished to live. Terrorism also undermined the socioeconomic development of small States and the attainment of the post-2015 development agenda.

76. His delegation commended the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. It welcomed the Secretary-General's initiatives with regard to combating terrorism and endorsed all General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, including the most recent resolution on foreign terrorist fighters. It also supported the working group in its task of speeding up the completion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged all States to put aside their

differences to pave the way for the proposed convention.

77. Sierra Leone had ratified a number of international counter-terrorism instruments and was working to enact national laws that would conform to international standards. It continued to work closely with its partners and with regional and subregional organizations in order to strengthen its capacity to combat terrorism.

78. In order to thwart the activities of terrorists, their sources of funding should be identified and cut off. Terrorists should also be deprived of easy access to arms and ammunition; his Government therefore called on all States that had not yet done so to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty. The sharing of information among States should be strengthened, and the capacities of small States in the field of counter-terrorism intelligence and in combating money-laundering should be enhanced. States should also speed up the enactment of robust counter-terrorism laws. The strategies of regional and subregional organizations should be more closely coordinated, and support for the victims of terrorism should be prioritized. Countries that provided support, funding, training and safe haven for terrorists should be identified and named, and the perpetrators of terrorist crimes should be identified and brought to justice.

79. The fight against terrorism must be carried out in compliance with public international law and international human rights and humanitarian law and with respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States. More time and energy should be devoted to the resolution of long-standing conflicts, particularly in the Middle East. The commitments set out in United Nations resolutions on counter-terrorism must be strictly implemented by all Member States. Lastly, his delegation joined others in supporting the convening of a high-level conference in order to discuss terrorism and its causes and consequences in depth and to find a lasting solution.

80. **Ms. Onanga** (Gabon) said that her Government unequivocally condemned the heinous acts of terrorists, who showed no respect for human life and values. The constantly changing forms of terrorism called for a strong joint response by the international community that was conducted in full compliance with international law. Her delegation supported Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), which aimed to mobilize the international community to tackle the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. In adopting the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had demonstrated their commitment to the fight against international terrorism. In that same spirit, her delegation encouraged those States that had not yet done so to ratify all the United Nations instruments that formed the legal framework for international efforts to combat terrorism.

81. While all countries were subject to the scourge of terrorism, they did not all have equal capacity to combat the sophisticated methods employed by terrorists. Her delegation therefore called for capacity-building assistance for developing countries that took account of the specific needs of and threats faced by, for example, African countries. Combating terrorism was a collective responsibility, but one that should be undertaken in harmony with international commitments regarding respect for human rights and the elimination of poverty.

82. **Mr. Ajawin** (South Sudan) said that terrorism knew no borders and had no religion or colour, and his Government condemned it in all its forms and manifestations. The fight against terrorism would take many years and would use up resources that could have been allocated to development programmes. However, with collective efforts, terrorism would eventually be defeated. All actions taken to combat terrorism must be in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and must strictly observe human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.

83. His Government was seriously concerned about the slow pace of the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Precious time had been wasted in attempting to define terrorism instead of focusing on a clear international strategy for fighting it. While discussion and disagreement on issues of semantics continued, more lives around the world would be lost and property damaged as a result of terrorist acts.

84. Northern and Eastern Africa had been devastated by acts of terrorism, and many lives had been lost unnecessarily. The memory of the attack on the Westgate Mall in Kenya was still fresh. The maiming and killing of innocent civilians in Uganda and, on occasion, in South Sudan by the Lord's Resistance Army had led to insecurity and the displacement of people from their homes. However, the Lord's

Resistance Army and other terrorist organizations operating in the subregion were not the only ones posing a threat to the security and stability of the nascent State of South Sudan. The country was facing a new rebellion led by the so-called Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition, which since December 2013 had killed and maimed thousands of innocent civilians across the country, particularly in the towns of Bor, Malakal and Bentiu. Its methods of killing and torture were the same as those used by other terrorist organizations around the world. His Government called on the international community to condemn the organization and to deny its members safe haven.

85. Effective efforts to fight terrorism required strong institutions. Although his Government worked closely with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), it was extremely concerned by the Mission's new mandate, which did not allow it to support requests from national, state and local partners for assistance in important capacity-building activities for government institutions, including those in the security sector. That would negatively affect the country's counter-terrorism capacity. His Government therefore called on local and international partners and the Security Council to continue providing such assistance.

86. **Mr. Madimi** (India) said that terrorism had emerged as a major destabilizing force and threat to world order. His Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State-sponsored cross-border terrorism. No cause or grievance could justify terrorism: a zero-tolerance approach must be taken. His delegation had participated in the debate on foreign terrorist fighters in the Security Council in September 2014; the Council was to be commended for establishing a new normative framework for addressing the issue. His delegation hoped that it would be implemented effectively.

87. The General Assembly also had an important role to play in the fight against international terrorism. His delegation attached importance to the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and commended the Ad Hoc Committee's work in that regard. It supported the text submitted by the Coordinator in 2007 and hoped that all States would consider steps aimed at finalizing the text during the discussions in the Committee's working group at the current session. His Government also supported all other efforts, particularly under United Nations auspices, to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation, including information-sharing, in the fight against terrorism. India participated in all major global initiatives, including FATF. It was also a party to 14 of the international counter-terrorism instruments.

88. At the regional level, India was a party to the 1987 Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the 2004 Additional Protocol thereto and the 2008 SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, and was working with fellow SAARC countries to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation. At the national level, the Government had adopted legislation dealing with all aspects of terrorism, including conspiracy and incitement, the financing of terrorism, the harbouring of terrorists and the unauthorized possession or use of explosives and lethal weapons. Other laws had been adopted to prevent weapons of mass destruction and dual-use materials from falling into the hands of terrorists and non-State actors and to monitor the foreign contributions received by non-governmental organizations and charities.

89. The fight against terrorism must be fought across all fronts and without selectivity. Moreover, the use of terrorism as an instrument of State policy must not be tolerated.

90. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the current magnitude and diversity of terrorism made it one of the gravest challenges to international peace and security and to human well-being. His Government unequivocally rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; no motivation could justify it. Under the leadership of its Prime Minister, it had waged an uncompromising battle to root out the evils of communal conflict, extremism and terrorism from Bangladeshi society. Fortunately, his country had not experienced any serious terrorist attacks for six years. Bangladesh was a party to 14 international counter-terrorism instruments and had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Government was pursuing a counter-radicalization strategy that sought to impart education, empower women, create employment for young people and propagate secular and moderate cultural values in order to foster tolerance, friendliness and respect for others. Efforts had been made to

implement Security Council resolution 1267 (1999), in particular through banning all terrorist groups that had been identified by the relevant Security Council Committee. On the legislative front, Parliament had adopted the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2012, and the country's first money-laundering prevention act had been enacted in 2009 and made more stringent in 2012. The Government had also strengthened the law enforcement agencies and intelligence services by providing them with modern training and equipment. It was working closely with partner countries to combat transnational terrorism and had tightened monitoring and supervision to detect suspicious transactions.

91. His delegation fully supported the timely conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which required a consensus definition of terrorism that drew a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle against colonial domination or foreign occupation. Any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group should be avoided. The convention should also address the root causes of terrorism, including economic disparity, political subjugation and exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, neo-colonialism, oppression, injustice and the absence of the rule of law.

92. His Government would continue to maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and religious extremism and pursue a foreign policy that promoted peace, democracy, secularism, freedom, human rights, good governance and social justice. In an increasingly globalized world, fostering a culture of peace and non-violence, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and ethnic and religious tolerance was an effective way to fight terrorism.

93. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that the barbarity of ISIL had shocked the people of Sri Lanka and the entire international community and had drawn renewed attention to the threat of terrorism. However, the methods of ISIL were not novel; they had been used before by other terrorist groups, such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which had carried out suicide attacks and mass killings of civilians in Sri Lanka over a period of three decades. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of where, by whom and for what purpose they were committed, must be condemned with equal vehemence.

94. Rapid developments in technology and communications had made the task of combating terrorism even more difficult. ISIL, like other terrorist groups, used the media, including social media, for political, recruitment and fundraising purposes. States should pool their resources and share intelligence in order to address that phenomenon. Furthermore, attempts by terrorist groups to associate themselves with a particular religion and to foster animosity among different religious groups should be rejected. States must work with credible partners that wielded influence within religious groups in order to counter the narrative propagated by terrorists and highlight the commitment of all the world's religions to respecting human dignity and the right to life. The media had a significant role to play in such efforts. In addition, the socioeconomic factors that created a sense of hopelessness and led people to sympathize with the cause of terrorism must be addressed.

95. Terrorist groups relied on international networks to propagate their ideology, raise funds and purchase weaponry, and were funded by vast illicit enterprises that engaged in money-laundering and trafficking in drugs, human beings and arms. One of the primary factors in Sri Lanka's victory over terrorism in 2009 had been the assistance it had received from its friends in dismantling the international network of the Liberation Tigers.

96. The recent upsurge in terrorist attacks around the world reinforced the urgency of finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Compromises must be found in order to overcome the deadlock in the Ad Hoc Committee and conclude the negotiations.

97. His Government remained committed to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and endorsed the work of CTED. The country's victory over terrorism had given it insights that it would be happy to share with the international community. Sri Lanka was a party to 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and the SAARC instruments on the suppression of terrorism and on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. It was also an active participant in global efforts to counter the illegal movement of funds and supported the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts and establishing legal norms.

98. **Mr. Nonomura** (Japan) said that his delegation joined others in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Despite the international community's tireless efforts, terrorist threats, such as that posed by the brutal group ISIL, continued to proliferate around the world. Comprehensive counter-terrorism measures were required, including measures to tackle terrorist financing and effective border controls. His Government had therefore been implementing a wide variety of capacity-building programmes in North Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East with a view to strengthening effective governance and preventing violent extremism from taking hold. The peace and stability of the South-East Asia region were also vital, and his Government was making efforts to enhance counter-terrorism dialogue with ASEAN.

99. The United Nations had a pivotal role in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts, as demonstrated by the fact that more than 100 Member States, including Japan, had sponsored the recently adopted Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). His delegation also welcomed the fourth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy conducted in June and attached importance to the timely conclusion of the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

100. **Mr. Tesfay** (Eritrea) said that his Government unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; terrorist acts constituted a flagrant violation of international law. In many countries, State failure was creating a power vacuum that allowed terrorist elements to gain alarming levels of power. However, terrorism should not be associated with any single religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. The United Nations and regional organizations should play a central role in efforts to combat terrorism, which must be consistent with international law and respect rules of engagement.

101. In the Horn of Africa, a volatile region, Eritrea remained a peaceful and stable country. Despite the ongoing security challenges in the region and the unjust sanctions imposed on the people of Eritrea for political reasons, the Government maintained social cohesion, in a country whose population was 50 per cent Muslim and 50 per cent Christian, by pursuing a policy of inclusion. It had taken various legislative and other measures to combat extremism and terrorism. It had submitted its national report to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and had recently issued a proclamation on combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

102. Eritrea was a party to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and other regional conventions, including the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Security Matters of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States. It had also been one of the sponsors of the recently adopted Security Council resolution on foreign terrorist fighters.

103. A unified global response, including the sharing of information and best practice, was needed in order to combat terrorism effectively. Equal emphasis and resources should be devoted to all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including measures to address the root causes of terrorism, such as long-standing conflicts. Unjust sanctions against developing countries would only exacerbate the situations of poverty and social and political crisis that were exploited by terrorists to boost recruitment and justify their criminal activities.

104. **Mr. Metref** (Algeria) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms, regardless of motivation, and reiterated its determination to combat it. Terrorism should not be associated with any specific religion, civilization or geographical area. Agreement needed to be reached on a definition of terrorism, which should be in line with the Charter and international law and should make a distinction between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign occupation to achieve their inalienable right to self-determination, as set out in General Assembly resolution 46/51. His delegation supported the proposal to convene a high-level United Nations conference to formulate a common position on eliminating terrorism. Such a conference would greatly contribute to resolving the outstanding issues on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

105. The prevention of terrorism required continued cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. Punitive measures alone were not sufficient; a coherent political strategy was also needed, including dialogue and efforts to understand what attracted people to terrorism. That approach had resulted in the adoption in 2006 of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which must be kept up-to-date in the light of

emerging threats and evolving trends. The increased incidence of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorist groups was worrying. His Government had a well-known and clear policy of not paying ransoms or making political concessions to hostage-takers, and it therefore welcomed the significant progress made towards the prohibition of such payments and concessions during the fourth biennial review of the Global Strategy.

106. Algeria had pioneered many counter-terrorism initiatives and instruments that continued to play an important role in the African region. The African Union, for its part, had demonstrated its commitment to the fight against terrorism through its decision condemning the payment of ransom to terrorist groups, the appointment of a Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and the establishment of a subcommittee on terrorism within its Peace and Security Council. At a recent meeting of the Council, a communiqué had been adopted urging member States to take measures to combat transnational organized crime and to ensure that terrorist groups did not benefit from the proceeds of criminal activities, including drug trafficking. The communiqué had also called for a high-level meeting of member States on the financing of terrorism, which Algeria had offered to host.

107. In view of the situation in the Sahel region, his Government was particularly focused on supporting forums and mechanisms that facilitated security cooperation between States through border control measures and intelligence sharing. For example, with the Government of Canada, it co-chaired the Sahel Region Capacity Building Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and also participated in the Joint Military Staff Committee of the Sahel Region and the Sahel Fusion and Liaison Unit. The military deployments on the country's borders helped to ensure the national security not only of Algeria but also of its neighbours. His Government also continued to contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the Maghreb, northern Mali and the Sahel, while fully respecting the principles of State sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

108. His Government welcomed the measures adopted during the fourth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held in June 2014, which aimed to strengthen cooperation between all stakeholders by enhancing the mobilization of resources and the exchange of expertise and best practices. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force had an important role to play in that regard by coordinating those efforts and providing Member States with technical support in the areas of policymaking and capacity-building.

109. In its first year of operation, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre had become one of the key counter-terrorism entities within the United Nations system. His Government was satisfied with the level of cooperation among the United Nations bodies involved in efforts to combat terrorism, including CTED.

110. **Mr. Al-Khalidy** (Iraq) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism continued to present a threat to international peace and security that must be tackled through a comprehensive and unified strategy led by the United Nations. States must cooperate at the regional and international levels to confront terrorist acts and extradite or prosecute the perpetrators, in accordance with international standards.

111. The first Baghdad international counter-terrorism conference had been held on 12 and 13 March 2014 and had culminated in the adoption of important recommendations concerning, inter alia, support for the international community's efforts to combat terrorism, in particular practical efforts by States to prevent the use of their territory as a base for terrorist acts against other States, the implementation of resolutions on counter-terrorism, and the declaration of an international day for the commemoration of the victims of terrorism. His Government hoped that further such conferences would be held every year.

112. Three months after the conference, ISIL had launched a large-scale terrorist campaign across Iraq and had occupied a number of important cities. The group's barbaric acts had violated the right to life of Iraqi citizens from both the majority and minority populations, wreaked havoc on the country's cultural and historical heritage and undermined its democratic and political processes. His Government therefore welcomed the recent adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) aimed at confronting ISIL and greatly appreciated the various international initiatives aimed at supporting Iraq in its fight against terrorism. It also called for further bilateral and multilateral initiatives to fight ISIL, in coordination with other counter-terrorism measures

taken by both the Security Council and the General Assembly.

113. Despite all the efforts made by the United Nations over several decades to combat terrorism, including the adoption of a number of international counter-terrorism instruments, many countries around the world continued to suffer brutal terrorist attacks. It was important for the international community to agree on a definition of terrorism and to study the underlying causes of terrorism as well as taking steps to eradicate it. His delegation hoped that the next Baghdad conference on counter-terrorism to be held in 2015 would foster progress in that regard.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.